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Renata Hesse
Trial Attorney
Antitrust Division
Department of Justice
601 D. Street NW, Suite 1200
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Ms. Hesse,

I understand that the federal courts are now reviewing the proposed settlement in the Microsoft antitrust case. I further understand that the government is collecting public comment on that issue.

My comment is simple: Accept the settlement and help get this country back to work.

A lengthy, expensive lawsuit contributes nothing to our nation's economic prosperity. Unwise government interference in the marketplace contributes nothing to economic growth – in fact, it hurts growth. And the Microsoft lawsuit has hurt our nation's economy, make no mistake about it.

The marketplace, not the courtroom, is where these issues should have been decided. Those who are concerned by Microsoft's dominance of its market should remember other industry leaders that no longer lead: Apple and Tandy in computer manufacturing; Kodak and 3M in copiers, and CompuServe in online services.

A market leader that fails to satisfy its customers will remain a leader no longer. Microsoft will remain a leader if and only if it continues to provide new services and lower costs. That is where its competitors should seek to replace Microsoft, not through the courtroom.

The government should not file antitrust lawsuits simply because a company is dominant in its market or because competitors cry foul. Yes, Microsoft plays hardball. But nothing in this long and costly lawsuit has established that the consumer – the most important person in this proceeding – has been damaged by anything Microsoft has done. In fact, the consumer has been the big winner. If this settlement is approved, the consumer will again be the big winner – as will the entire American economy.

Sincerely,



James A. Ciao